

consists essentially or, or consists of is 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

In the Claims

Please amend claims 4, 9, 15, 23-24, 35-36, 43-44, 46, 49, 55-57 and 60 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising administering to the individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for the polynucleotide with respect to the antibody from the individual before or upon initiation of treatment is less than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml, and wherein said K_D' value or a functional equivalent thereof is used as a basis for selecting the individual to receive the treatment.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the polynucleotide consists of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

15. (Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising
(a) assessing before initiation of treatment an apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') or a functional equivalent thereof for a polynucleotide in a conjugate an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID

NO:1), wherein the individual is selected to receive the treatment if the K_D' is less than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml; and

(b) administering to the individual the conjugate in an amount sufficient to increase the K_D' .

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the polynucleotide consists essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

24. (Amended) The method claim 22 wherein the polynucleotide consists of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

43. (Amended) The method of claim 42 wherein polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

44. (Amended) The method of claim 42 wherein polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

46. (Amended) A method of identifying an individual who may be suitable for treatment for SLE, said treatment comprising administration of a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), said method comprising measuring the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') or functional equivalent thereof for the polynucleotide of the conjugate before or upon initiation of treatment and anti-double

stranded DNA antibodies from the individual, wherein an individual is identified by K_D ' of less than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml or a functional equivalent thereof.

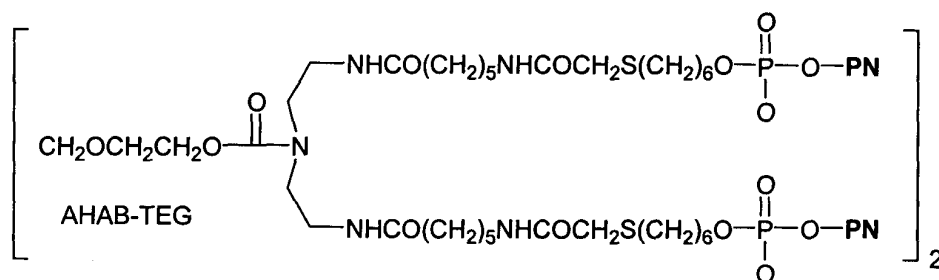
49. (Amended) A method of identifying an individual who may be unsuitable for treatment for SLE, said treatment comprising administration of a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), said method comprising measuring the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D ') or a functional equivalent thereof for the polynucleotide of the conjugate and anti-double stranded DNA antibodies from the individual before or upon initiation of treatment, wherein an individual is identified by K_D ' of more than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml or a functional equivalent thereof.

55. (Amended) The kit of claim 54, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

56. (Amended) The kit of claim 54, wherein the polynucleotide consists essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

57. (Amended) The kit of claim 54, wherein the polynucleotide consists of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

60. (Amended) The kit of claim 59, wherein the conjugate comprises the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) and the platform



wherein PN denotes polynucleotide.